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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 17th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. CISSÉ (Senegal)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.40 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 93: ELIMINATION OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued)
(A/C.3/49/L.2, L.3 and L.8)

AGENDA ITEM 94: RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION (continued)
(A/C.3/49/L.4 and L.7)

1. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that the draft resolutions to be introduced did not have programme budget implications.

Presentation of draft resolutions under agenda item 93

Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.2

2. Mr. ROLAND (Belgium) introduced draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.2 on the status of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The Convention, together with the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination were the main instruments available to the international community to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General (A/49/403), the Convention had been ratified by 139 States; with the exception of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, it had been ratified by more States than any other important legal instrument for the protection of human rights. In the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights held at Vienna in June 1993, the participating States called for the universal ratification of human rights treaties, and the final document urged States to accede to such international instruments and to avoid formulating reservations as much as possible. Paragraph 4 of the draft resolution reflected the commitments made by all participants in the Vienna Conference. The draft resolution also recalled that the new provisions for the financing of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, temporarily guaranteed for the 1994-1995 biennium, would enter into force once two thirds of the States parties had notified the Secretary-General of their acceptance.

3. It was important for the international community to act in a coordinated and effective manner in order to eradicate all forms of racial discrimination. The universal ratification of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination together with appropriate measures to permit the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to carry out its work under the best possible conditions were geared towards that objective.

4. Armenia, Cyprus, Guatemala, Iceland, Maldives and Senegal had joined the 61 original sponsors of the draft resolution. All those countries hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted without a vote in accordance with established practice.

Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.3

5. Mrs. TOMIC (Slovenia), speaking on behalf of the sponsors who had been joined by Cyprus, Egypt and Guatemala, introduced draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.3 on the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and expressed the hope that it would be adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.8

6. Mr. JALLOW (Gambia), speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that were members of the Group of African States, introduced draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.8 on the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. The draft resolution reflected the work of the Organization with respect to the universal promotion and protection of human rights. The sponsors of the draft resolution hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.

Presentation of draft resolutions under agenda item 94

Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.4

7. Mrs. AITZAZ (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the sponsors, who had been joined by Guatemala, introduced draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.4 on the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination. The text of the draft resolution was identical to that of resolution 48/93, which had been adopted without a vote by the General Assembly in 1993. Some minor changes had been made to technically update the draft resolution by referring to the latest resolutions of the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights. The sponsors of the draft resolution hoped that it would be approved without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.7

8. Mr. JALLOW (Gambia), speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that were members of the Group of African States, presented draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.7 on the importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination and of the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights. He proposed the following amendments to the draft resolution: in the fourth line of paragraph 2, the word "imperatives" should be replaced by "a condition"; in paragraph 6, the phrase "after implementation of the General Peace Agreement for Mozambique and to assist" should be deleted and the words "financial and material" should be inserted between the words "generous" and "support" in the second line; in the fifth line of paragraph 14, the words "and racist" should be deleted and the word "and" should be inserted between the words "colonial" and "foreign". The group of African States hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted without a vote.

AGENDA ITEM 95: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION AND TO YOUTH, AGEING, DISABLED PERSONS AND THE FAMILY (continued) (A/C.3/49/L.10)

Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.10

9. Mrs. LIMJUCO (Philippines), speaking on behalf of the sponsors, introduced draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.10 entitled "Towards full integration of persons with disabilities in society: implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, and of the long-term strategy to implement the world programme of action concerning disabled persons to the year 2000 and beyond". Canada, Chile, Guinea and Paraguay had joined the 31 sponsors of the draft resolution.

10. She proposed the following amendments: in section I, paragraph 1, in the first line, the words "and organizations" should be deleted and the phrase "with the cooperation and assistance of organizations" should be added after "fully"; in paragraph 2, the second line, after "persons with disabilities", the phrase "or their representatives" should be added; in section II, paragraph 2, the first line, "programme" should be replaced by "World Programme of Action concerning disabled persons", and in the fourth line, before "report" the word "above-mentioned" should be added; in the second line of paragraph 3, "offices" should be replaced by "programmes"; in paragraph 4, the first line, after "regional" the phrase "commissions and other regional" should be inserted, and in the second line, "disability-related" should be inserted before "technology"; in paragraph 5, the first line, "global" should be replaced by "international".

11. The purpose of the draft resolution was to ensure the full implementation of the Standard Rules, as well as the long-term strategy, which, although they were not compulsory, could become international customary rules when they were applied by many States in compliance with an instrument of international law. They implied a moral and political commitment by States to bring about equalization of opportunities for all persons with disabilities and provided an instrument for policy-making and a basis for technical and economic cooperation among States, the United Nations and other international organizations. With regard to the long-term strategy, the World Programme of Action emerging from the International Year for Disabled Persons in 1981, which served to raise the world's consciousness of the rights of persons with disabilities to the same opportunities as others and to the improved living conditions resulting from economic and social development. In order to continue building on the progress already achieved in the field of disability, the programme must be extended to the year 2000 and beyond, as suggested in the Strategy which the draft resolution sought to implement. The full and effective implementation of the Standard Rules and the extension of the World Programme of Action would make a difference in the full integration of persons with disabilities with the rest of mankind. The sponsors hoped that the draft resolution could be adopted by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM 98: INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL (continued) (A/49/89, A/49/39-E/1994/57, A/49/228-S/1994/827, A/49/287-S/1994/894 and Corr.1, A/49/317, A/49/345, A/49/369, A/49/422)

12. Mr. JUNEJO (Pakistan) said that the expansion and diversification of illicit drugs threatened to turn the hopes of the international community for peace, security and rapid social and economic development in the post-cold war period into a nightmare. The powerful drug industry was a major source of instability and underdevelopment in many parts of the world. Its activities exacerbated and perpetuated conditions of poverty, promoted criminality and undermined efforts aimed at environmental protection. Efforts must be intensified at the national and international level to carry out measures in conformity with the instruments and plans of action with which the international community was equipped and to allow the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) to fulfil its mandate. International cooperation should be strengthened in targeting major drug traffickers by combating money laundering, terrorism, arms trafficking and corruption. Pakistan fully endorsed the decision by the General Assembly to reaffirm the leadership role of the Executive Director of UNDCP, within the United Nations system, which had provided the basis for a multidisciplinary, balanced and coordinated approach to international drug control. More resources should be allocated to UNDCP to enable it to respond more effectively to the requirements of assisting developing countries in combating drugs. His delegation was pleased that UNDCP considered demand reduction and supply reduction equally important. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs should include on its agenda a permanent item on demand reduction and the elaboration of a convention on demand reduction which could spell out the obligations to be assumed by States parties.

13. The narcotics problem in Pakistan had its origin, to a large extent, in the geopolitical developments resulting from the invasion of Afghanistan by the former Soviet Union in 1979. The Government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto accorded high priority to the eradication of the drug problem, with efforts especially focused on curbing drug production, supply and illicit trafficking. The Government had taken measures to treat and rehabilitate addicts and activate community intervention on drug abuse. An effective legislative and administrative framework had been created to fight the problem. In 1989, the Government had created a separate ministry, called the Narcotics Control Division, supported by the Anti-Narcotics Task Force and the Pakistan Narcotics Control Board. A Policy Review Board had been set up to monitor the progress and implementation of anti-narcotics policies, and a Narcotics Interdiction Committee regularly evaluated the performance of 12 federal and provincial agencies.

14. In order to adapt national legislation to the 1988 Convention, the Government had drafted a comprehensive law on narcotics offences, which would soon come into force. In December 1991, an ordinance was promulgated to provide for destruction of seized narcotics. In April 1993, a decree was enacted empowering the Government to destroy the seized narcotics held in warehouses. In September 1994, the Dangerous Drug Act was amended to authorize the courts to forfeit the assets of a person sentenced to imprisonment for a term of two years or more on drug-related charges. The death penalty had been provided for very

serious offences related to drug trafficking. An ordinance was also promulgated to remove a legal lacuna regarding the definition of opium as a raw drug which prevented the courts from ordering proper punishment for the accused. The production of narcotic drugs had been reduced as a result of the elimination of processing and trafficking, the destruction of heroin laboratories and the punishment of traffickers, including some very influential persons. People suspected of involvement in illicit narcotics trafficking were barred from political life.

15. The Government had intensified its efforts to curb trafficking in essential precursor chemicals. Since 1991, acetic anhydride and acetone had been placed on the restricted list along with many other chemicals not included in the Convention of 1988. Despite those efforts, however, recent seizures indicated that there was transborder traffic in acetic anhydride. In addition to the reduction in trafficking, preventive education programmes had been launched targeted at addicts, particularly students, women, children and other high-risk groups, with the help of non-governmental organizations and civic, community and religious associations.

16. In the regional context, Pakistan was participating in the drug-control activities of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and had signed and ratified its Regional Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in 1990. Also in 1990, narcotic drugs control had been included, at Pakistan's initiative, as an area for cooperation among the States members of the Economic Cooperation Organization. Pakistan fully supported the subregional approach being pursued by the Executive Director of UNDCP, which was crucial in countering trans-border trafficking and which had already yielded satisfactory results in South-East Asia and South America. In accordance with that approach, a memorandum of understanding had been signed earlier in 1994 between Pakistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and UNDCP. Pakistan welcomed UNDCP's initiative in sponsoring a dialogue between Pakistan and India for the establishment of a consultative mechanism on drug-control measures, particularly with a view to preventing the smuggling of precursor chemicals across the border. The informal inter-agency group on drug-control activities established in Islamabad was achieving satisfactory results. In addition, UNDCP, with the help of UNDP, the World Bank and the European Union, was preparing a report in Pakistan on the illicit opiate industry, an example of the broadening of cooperation to include the international financial institutions and regional organizations.

17. Pakistan agreed with the Secretary-General that the United Nations should take multisectoral initiatives to reinforce progress in reducing illicit crops and in crop substitution. Economic assistance should be given to farmers in the poppy-growing areas; industries should be set up to generate alternative income sources and employment opportunities; cultivators of substitute crops should have better access to international markets, and law-enforcement agencies in developing countries involved in drug-control programmes should be provided with modern equipment, a task in which the developed countries could play an important role.

18. Mr. ILLUECA (Panama), speaking on behalf of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama, said that at the Tegucigalpa

International Conference for Peace and Development in Central America the Presidents of the Central American republics and the Prime Minister of Belize had issued a declaration reaffirming their commitment to the attainment of high levels of economic and social well-being for all Central Americans and to progress in the Alliance for Sustainable Development in Central America. Emphasis had been laid on the social responsibility of the Governments of Central America to take decisive steps against drug trafficking and international crime. The competent national authorities and the Central American Permanent Commission for the Eradication of the Production, Trafficking, Consumption and Use of Illicit Drugs and Psychotropic Substances had been assigned the task of submitting a detailed progress report. It had been decided to set up a regional anti-drug body that would increase data collection and exchanges of information to combat drugs and crime. In addition, the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs had been requested at the Tegucigalpa Conference to promote, at the national and regional levels, the plan of action "Justice on the March" prepared by the United Nations Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. The measures adopted by the Governments of Central America reflected the region's growing awareness of the importance of drug control. The United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 was in force in all the countries of Central America, which were parties to the Convention.

19. A number of Central American countries, including El Salvador and Panama, had benefited from legal assistance provided by UNDCP. In addition to promoting the implementation of the 1988 Convention, the United Nations should also promote anti-drug training and educational activities. The Central American Governments fully supported all the concepts, definitions, aims and ideas contained in General Assembly resolution 48/12 of 28 October 1993 concerning measures to counter the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, which continued to jeopardize socio-economic and political systems and the stability, security and sovereignty of a growing number of States.

20. According to a recent study by the United Nations Association of the United States of America, the cultivation, trafficking and sale of narcotics was a $500,000-million industry, an astronomical figure compared with the UNDCP budget of $187 million for the 1994-1995 biennium. It was to be noted that the International Law Commission had admitted the possibility, in connection with the draft statute for an international criminal court, of giving the court jurisdiction over drug-related crimes, in other words, international crimes defined in treaties. According to the Commission, terrorist activity was supported by large-scale drug trafficking. It should be borne in mind that crimes relating to the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotics and psychotropic substances and related activities were exceptionally serious.

21. One of the key objectives of the Global Programme of Action launched by the General Assembly in 1990 was the promotion of economic development activities as alternatives to the illicit cultivation and refining of narcotics. The Governments of Central America therefore supported the General Assembly's appeal

to the international community to increase economic and technical assistance to requesting Governments in support of substitute development programmes that were compatible with peoples' farming traditions. Latin America in general and Central America in particular should implement the guidelines laid down by the General Assembly in resolution 48/112 with a view to promoting international action to combat drug abuse and illicit production and trafficking. To that end, the United Nations urgently needed the support of all Member States, given that results could only be achieved if the concepts of democracy, development, and drugs and debt were included in the search for solutions. In that context, the idea of "swapping debt for drugs", a UNDCP initiative, retained its validity. Such an exchange could be viewed as a new type of funding for drug-control projects, since debt could be converted into substitute development which, through alternative development projects, would allow Governments to address such national economic development problems as income generation, rural infrastructure and agricultural development. Mention had been made in the document prepared by UNDCP and transmitted to the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme of the interrelationship between economic reform in the developing world and the phenomenon of illicit drugs; the international community was encouraged by the fact that that document would be submitted to the World Summit for Social Development.

22. Non-governmental organizations played a key role in action to reduce the demand for drugs, an aim that was also advanced by the efforts of the academic community to assist students, teachers, parents and community leaders. In the field of AIDS prevention, UNDCP had begun executing a national preventive education programme as part of a larger initiative sponsored jointly by the Government of Brazil, the World Bank, WHO, UNESCO and UNDCP. The World Forum on the Role of Non-Governmental Organizations in Drug Reduction Demand, to be held in Bangkok in December 1994 with the assistance of UNDCP, highlighted the role of those organizations in the implementation of the multidimensional strategy.

23. It was essential to put an end to situations that rendered young people economically vulnerable and socially insecure. To that end, Member States should continue to support the Global Programme of Action and the System-Wide Action Plan with a view to enhancing the capacity of institutions to promote human well-being.

The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.